

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A signage producing system, comprising:
at least one graphic selection interface, wherein ~~said~~ the at least one graphic selection interface is operable to permit a user to ~~identify~~ select at least one sign graphic and to permit the user to identify a portion of a building to be associated with the selected at least one sign graphic;
at least one database, wherein the at least one database is operable to store the at least one sign graphic and ~~at least one sign template~~ an identified portion of a building; and
a signage application, wherein the signage application is operable to generate a sign by ~~populating the at least one sign template with~~ receiving the user selection of the at least one sign graphic and the identified portion of a building, and further operable to track signage for multiple portions of a building.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one graphic selection interface is further operable to display multiple sign graphics.
3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the at least one graphic selection interface is further operable to receive at least one sign graphic from the user.
4. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising at least one sign interface, wherein said sign interface is operable to display a plurality of signs generated by the user.
5. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the at least one sign interface is operable to receive a selection from a user, said selection modifying the sign generated by the signage application.

6. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the at least one sign interface comprises at least one selection box, wherein said at least one selection box indicates whether the at least one sign graphic is included on the sign.
7. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a user, wherein the user is in communication with the at least one graphic selection interface via a network.
8. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a sign preview interface, wherein said sign preview interface is operable to display said sign generated by said signage application.
9. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a printer for printing said sign.
10. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising at least one personnel interface, wherein said personnel interface is operable to display personnel associated with the sign.
11. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a sign, comprising:
identifying receiving a user selection of at least one sign graphic and a portion of a building to be associated with the selected at least one sign graphic;
retrieving at least one sign template, wherein the at least one sign template determines the design of a sign; and
generating a sign by populating the at least one sign template with the at least one graphic selection; and
updating a summary of signs created for multiple portions of a building.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of associating at least one person with the sign.
13. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of retrieving the at least one sign graphic from a database.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of ~~identifying~~ receiving a user selection of at least one sign graphic comprises receiving said at least one sign graphic from a user.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of altering said sign by altering said sign template.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of displaying multiple sign graphics.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of displaying the generated sign.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of printing the generated sign.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for producing a sign, said computer program product comprising:

~~a computer usable medium having computer-readable code means embodied in said medium, said computer-readable code means comprising~~ computer-readable code means for adapted to:

~~identifying~~ receive a user selection of at least one sign graphic and a portion of a building to be associated with the selected at least one sign graphic;

~~retrieving~~ retrieve at least one sign template, wherein the at least one sign template dictates the design of a sign; ~~and~~

~~generating~~ generate a sign by populating the at least one sign template with the at least one graphic selection; and

update a summary of signs created for multiple portions of a building.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim ~~18~~ 19, further comprising computer-readable code ~~means for~~ adapted to providing provide a user interface, said user interface permitting a user to identify the at least one sign graphic.

REMARKS

The present Amendment and Response is responsive to the non-final Office Action mailed February 7, 2007. Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. By the present response, independent claims 1, 11, and 19 have been amended, and dependent claims 14 and 20 have also been amended.

Claim Objections Under 37 CFR 1.75(c)

The Office Action objected to claim 20 under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. In particular, the Office Action suggests that claim 20 is amended to be dependent from claim 19. Amended claim 20 corrects this dependency, and amended claim 20 depends from claim 19.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

In the non-final Office Action, Claims 1-8, 10 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Assignee respectfully submits that claims 1 – 10 are directed to a signage producing system. The Applicant's specification describes a computer system adapted to provide a network accessible user interface, for example, a website. The system is also adapted to provide a user with tools for creating and managing laboratory signage. *See* Paragraphs [0010], [0030] – [0038]. An example system configuration is shown in FIG. 1 with a client device 104, processing unit 124, and memory 118. The example system described by the application is not "functional descriptive material" since the claimed invention can be embodied in the system configuration described in at least FIG. 1.

Furthermore, since the Applicant's specification discloses there is recorded material on a computer-readable medium, such as "application programs stored within the memory 118", there is a sufficient structural and functional interrelationship between application program and memory. *See* Paragraph [0034]. Amended claim 19 clarifies that the claimed invention includes a "computer program product for producing a sign, said computer program product comprising

computer-readable code adapted to ..." The example computer program product described by the application is not "functional descriptive material" since the claimed invention can be embodied in the application program and memory configuration described by the Applicant's specification.

In view of the Applicant's specification and amended claims 1 and 19, the non-statutory subject matter rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the non-final Office Action, claims 1-2, 4-8, 11-13 and 15-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by *Sign Builder 2.0*. Independent claims 1, 11, and 19 have been amended by the present response. In particular, amended claim 1 includes the element, "at least one graphic selection interface operable to permit a user to select at least one sign graphic and to permit the user to identify a portion of a building to be associated with the selected at least one sign graphic." Claims 11 and 19 have been similarly amended. The Applicant's specification fully supports these amendments. For instance, FIG. 3 illustrates that a user can use a sign database interface 300 to manage laboratory signage for multiple campuses, buildings and/or rooms. *See* Paragraph [0042]. In one embodiment, the sign database interface 300 is arranged as a grid with each row representing a different laboratory sign, and can further include a room identification 302. *See* Paragraph [0042].

Sign Builder 2.0 is a web-based tool used to create custom general and safety signs. However, the *Sign Builder 2.0* examples do not disclose or suggest "at least one graphic selection interface operable to permit a user to select at least one sign graphic and to permit the user to identify a portion of a building to be associated with the selected at least one sign graphic." (Underlining added). As shown by the *Sign Builder 2.0* examples, signs can be generated using corresponding parameters, but there is no disclosure or suggestion that a user can use *Sign Builder 2.0* to identify a portion of a building to be associated with the selected at least one sign graphic.

In addition, independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the at least one graphic selection interface is "further operable to track signage for multiple portions of a building". Similarly, independent claims 11 and 19 have been amended to clarify that the claimed invention can include, "updating a summary of signs created for multiple portions of a building" or "update a summary of signs created for multiple portions of a building". Again, as shown by the *Sign Builder 2.0* examples, signs can be generated using corresponding parameters, but there is no disclosure or suggestion that a user can use *Sign Builder 2.0* to track signage for multiple portions of a building, or update a summary of signs created for multiple portions of a building.

For at least the above reasons, amended independent claims 1, 11, and 19 should be allowable over the cited reference.

Claims 2, 4-8, 12-13, and 15-18, and 20 are ultimately dependent from at least one of the amended independent claims for which arguments of patentability have been presented above. If the underlying amended independent claims are allowable over the cited reference, then the dependent claims should also be allowable over the cited reference.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the non-final Office Action, claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sign Builder 2.0* in view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0103431 to Davenport, et al. ("*Davenport*"). Independent claims 1, 11, and 19 have been amended by the present response. Claim 10 is ultimately dependent from amended independent claim 1 for which arguments of patentability have been presented above. If the underlying amended independent claim 1 is allowable over the cited references, then the dependent claim should also be allowable over the cited references.

Furthermore, dependent claims 3, 9, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sign Builder 2.0* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,493,677 B1 to von Rosen, et al. ("*von Rosen*"). Independent claims 1, 11, and 19 have been amended by the present response. Claims 3, 9, and 14 are ultimately dependent from amended independent claims 1 or 11 for which arguments of patentability have been presented above. If the underlying amended

independent claims 1 and 11 are allowable over the cited references, then the dependent claims should also be allowable over the cited references.